

81st in a Series

Lines on Local Daughters

By Shirley Williams



ARLENE SCHMITTER

The cameras of Hollywood are beckoning to a talented young artist and former Utican, Miss Arlene Schmitter. Arlene is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schmitter, Santa Rosa, Calif.

At present Arlene must make a decision that many of us wish we could make for her. However, it is Arlene who must decide for her future, a career of school teaching or a lifetime of entertaining.

If she decides to go back to school she will be a junior at Potsdam State Teachers College. If it's Hollywood for her, she may accept an offer from a private movie concern for a screen test. The movies put out by this company are shown throughout the world.

ARLENE IS A 1948 graduate of Utica Free Academy and has been on the dean's list for her two years at Potsdam. During her freshman year she played the viola in the college symphony. She sings with the Collegiate Singers, the college's touring 40-voice choir, and sang last year in the Potsdam Bach Festival. She is equally accomplished on the piano, xylophone and drums. She also had her own radio show over the campus station WNTC.

Miss Schmitter won first place with her singing of "With Verdure Clad" at an oratorio soloists' contest in Ontario, sponsored by International Rotary. She is a Curran Scholarship winner in piano, a winner of the 1948 annual Etude Music Club Prize and a member of the Junior B Sharp Club.

In addition to her other accomplishments, she holds a four-year scholarship in piano at the college. If she returns to school this Fall she will have four scholarships to see her through.

ARLENE HAS REACHED her 18th birthday and has been playing the accordion since she was five. She appeared on the Major Bowes program when she was nine years old and the trophy that she won as the second-accordion-champion-of-the year was almost as tall as she was. While still a child performer she took honors in three national championships on the accordion.

Arlene has a younger brother, Walter, who plays the xylophone. Sister and brother often put on concerts together.

All of us back home, especially those of us who went through school with Arlene, are proud of her success and sincerely hope to see her continue with the career of her choice.